narrator does not agree with her. Lady John's wit is undepfeted, and so she cannot be the 'victim'. Grace then pitches on May Server, an attractive and charming woman, who has of late been very lackadaisical and unhappy. The narrator instinctively feels sympathy, and pity for May Server, and inspite of the artist Obert's confirmation that May Server is a changed woman the narrator maintains that she is not the woman. But it presently becomes evident to him that she was the woman in question. According to him, Grace and Long are the 'sacrificers' and Guy and May are the 'sacrificed*. The 'palace of thought', which the narrator builds with intellectual pride, topples like a house of cards when, in the end, his own pupil Grace Brissenden repudiates his hypothesis and calls him 'crazy'. Obert tells him that May Server has 'changed back', and Grace asserts that the transformation of Long is all a myth. Lady John and Gilbert Long are lovers, and May Server is a 'horrid' flirt. The ironies of self-metamorphosis dramatise the limits of human understanding.

From the evidence of the story, it is clear that the hypothesising narrator puts ideas into the minds of the other characters. Fa I staff-like, constituting himself a source of wit in others, and thereby denuding his own wit of the capacity to see through the disparities between illusion and reality. If they agree with him about the things he has seen, it does not necessarily mean that they have independently seen the same themselves. When Grace Brissenden tells him that May Server was the 'victim', the narrator congratulates her on her commendable reasoning powers, and she replies that she was able to see because of his influence over her. She says, "You've made me sublime. You found me dense". Again, towards the end, when she repudiates his theory, she tells him "you talk too much, I mean you're carried away-you're abused by a fine fancy; so that with your art of putting things, one doesn't know where one is../*[1]* Obert also disclaims any responsibility for having seemed to agree with the narrator.

He says, "1 assure you I decline all responsibility. I see the respon-
sibility as quite beautifully yours."[17] If he had said that May Server
was a changed woman, it was because the narrator himself had first
hinted at it. Obert says, "I do see. But only... through you having
seen first. You gave me the pieces. I've put them together/'[1]*

It is the narrator's art of putting things together that bewitched
Obert and Grace into a state of drawing the narrator's conclusions
for him. While the obsessed mind of the narrator reads into situations